

Serial No. 09/545,446

Attorney Docket No. CAS0027

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 remain in this application. Claims 1 through 9, 12, 15, 16 and 19 through 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 10 has been amended.

Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 10 is hereby amended to include the limitations of claims 12, 15 and 16. Claims 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 depend from and include all limitations of independent claim 10 as amended. Therefore, claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 through 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Also, claims 1 through 9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(c) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,584,307 to Antonucci, et al. Claims 10 through 15 and 17 through 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,485,163 to Singer, et al. These rejections are considered to be moot in view of the amendments to the claims above. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, §102(c) and §102(b) rejections of claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Albal, Nandakishore A., et al.



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Hisashi D. Watanabe Date
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 37,465
Telephone: (847) 523-2322
Facsimile: (847) 523-2350

Please forward all correspondence to:
Motorola, Inc.
Law Department (HDW)
600 North US Highway 45, AS437
Libertyville, IL 60048